

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 /087 W

-----095566 120134Z /62

R 101120Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WSSHDC 497

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 476

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RENE ISSUES ULTIMATUM TO FORMER MINISTERS

1. PRESIDENT RENE HAS PUBLICLY WARNED MINISTERS IN DEPOSED MANCHAM GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO REMAIN ABROAD SINCE COUP TO CEASE "ACTS OF TREASON" IMMEDIATELY AND TO RETURN TO SEYCHELLES BY AUGUST 21 OR FACE PERMANENT BANISHMENT. IN CABLE TO EX-MINISTERS JOUBERT, UZICE, CHETTY AND D'OFFAY AT UNNAMED LONDON HOTEL, RENE STATED THAT SINCE ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY OF RUNNING GOVERNMENT, HE HAD UNDERTAKEN TO PROTECT FORMER MINISTERS AND THEIR PROPERTY. DESPITE OFFER MADE TO ALL SUCH MINISTERS TO RETURN HOME AND CONTRIBUTE TO SEYCHELLES' DEVELOPMENT, HE ADDED, SOME HAD CHOSEN TO STAY ABROAD AND ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT PEACEFUL SITUATION PREVAILING HERE.

2. MINISTER OF INFORMATION MICHEL TOLD CHARGE AUGUST 11 THAT GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED RECURRING REPORTS THAT JOUBERT AND UZICE WERE A) ATTEMPTING TO RECRUIT MERCENARIES ABROAD FOR PROPORTED COUNTER-COUP ATTEMPT, AND B) FOMENTING TROUBLE WITHIN SEYCHELLES. HE DID NOT ELABORATE. MICHEL SAID EVERYONE KNOWS RENE HAS BEEN EXCEEDINGLY GENEROUS THUS FAR IN DEALING WITH OFFICIALS OF DEPOSED GOVERNMENT, AND, THEREFORE, HAS UNANIMOUS SUPPORT
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IN CABINET FOR LOWERING BOOM ON THOSE PRO-MANCHAM MINISTERS STILL ABROAD. IMPLICATION, THOUGH, WAS THAT GOVERNMENT HAS NO PARTICULAR PROBLEM WITH CHETTY AND D'OFFAY.

3. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT DOES NOT APPEAR PARTICULARLY NERVOUS ABOUT COUNTER-COUP POSSIBILITY AT THIS TIME; NOR HAS THERE BEEN SLIGHTEST PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF THE TROUBLE EX-MINISTERS

ARE ALLEGED TO BE FOMENTING. RENE GOVERNMENT IS PROUD THAT IT WAS ABLE TO BRING OFF COUP WITH ALMOST NO BLOODSHED AND MINIMAL ADVERSE IMPACT ON LIVES OF ALL BUT FEW INDIVIDUALS. CABLE TO DEPOSED MINISTERS STILL ABROAD IS PROBABLY INTENDED TO BUILD PUBLIC RECORD THAT NO EFFORT WAS SPARED TO REINCORPORATE EVEN THESE INDIVIDUALS INTO SEYCHELLES SOCIETY. NO ONE HERE, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THAT JOUBERT OR UZICE WILL BE HERE ON AUGUST 21.

4. FOR LONDON: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU MIGHT COME ACROSS AS TO WHAT THESE MINISTERS ARE STILL DOING IN LONDON.
FELDER

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